

---

---

---

---

---

The Rural District  
Council of the  
Isle of Axholme

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health

For the Year  
1949.



# RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE ISLE OF AXHOLME 1949

## Chairman of the Council:

Councillor G. Chessman, J.P.

## Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor A. W. Cranidge.

## Health Committee:

Chairman: Councillor G. C. Hurst (Belton).  
Councillor W. J. Barnard (Haxey).  
Councillor H. R. O. Chipp (Haxey).  
Councillor F. W. Clark (Crowle).  
Councillor R. E. Cock (Luddington).  
Councillor W. Cockin (West Butterwick).  
Councillor J. T. C. Holliday (Crowle).  
Councillor S. T. Holmes (Owston Ferry).  
Councillor Mrs. E. N. Johnson, J.P. (Belton).  
Councillor H. Mason (Crowle).  
Councillor H. A. Morris (Epworth).  
Councillor W. A. Pyecroft (Owston Ferry).  
Councillor G. W. Shipley (Eastoft).  
Councillor A. Stanberry (Epworth).  
Councillor G. F. Stones (Althorpe).  
Councillor A. L. Thornton (Amcotts).

## Clerk of the Council:

S. W. Chester, Esq., A.C.C.S.

## Staff of Public Health Department:

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. J. C. Macartney.

Senior Sanitary Inspector: Mr. J. T. Battye.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: Mr. J. Peaty.

## Isle of Axholme Rural District Council

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1949

---

---

To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Axholme  
Rural District Council.

12th August, 1950.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1949. The civilian population has now reached 14,030, an increase of 310. The Birth Rate was 18.8 per 1,000 of the population. This figure is 2.1 above the average of the rates for all England and Wales. There was an increase in the number of deaths, caused by a larger number having died from Pneumonia, Tuberculosis, Heart Disease and Cancer. The average age at death continued to be very high. The Infantile Mortality Rate of 33.9 per 1,000 live births compares very favourably with that for other areas of the country, although it is higher than last year's exceptionally low figure of 27.4. This increase was due to premature births (3) and congenital causes (5), which are not preventable infantile conditions.

Regarding Infectious Diseases it is pleasing to note that, again, not one case of Diphtheria has occurred since 1946. Only two cases of Scarlet Fever and three of Measles were reported compared with 10 and 25 respectively last year. One case of Smallpox, contracted abroad, was dealt with and there were seven Infantile Paralysis cases. These are referred to under the appropriate heading later.

It can be said that the general health of the community remained good.

The very able and energetic manner in which Mr. Battye, Senior Sanitary Inspector, executed his multifarious duties is much appreciated. I am also grateful to the Clerk of the Council and other officials for their help during the year and to the Councillors for the helpful interest in Public Health matters.

Yours faithfully,

J. C. MACARTNEY,

M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

## **SECTION A.**

### **1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

Area of the Rural District .....	51,104	acres
Estimated Population .....	14,030	
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1949 .....	£33,766	
Sum represented by 1d. Rate .....	£129/4/7	

The essential industry of the District is agriculture, with the usual small industries ancillary to agriculture. The drainage of the area has resulted in this becoming a very fertile food production district.

A large grain silo and seed dressing depot and a grass drying plant are at Epworth. Also a very large electricity generating station is in course of erection at Keadby for the British Electricity Authority. Other industries are Tillage Works, Brickyards, Agricultural Machinery work, a Brewery, and Builders' businesses.

### **2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.**

BIRTHS.	Male	Female	Total
Live Births .....	141	124	265
Legitimate .....	134	114	248
Illegitimate .....,	7	10	17
Still Births .....	4	2	6
Legitimate .....	3	2	5
Illegitimate .....	1	—	1
Birth Rate, per 1,000 of Estimated Population .....	18.8		

DEATHS.	Male	Female	Total
All Causes .....	89	93	182
Infants under one year .....	6	3	9
Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population .....	12.2		
Infantile Mortality Rate .....	33.9		

### CAUSES OF INFANTILE DEATHS.

Disease.	Male	Female	Total
Congenital Causes .....	4	1	5
Premature Birth .....	1	2	3
Pneumonia .....	1	—	1
Totals .....	6	3	9

### COMPARATIVE TABLES.

#### BIRTHS.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
1949 .....	141	124	265	18.8
1948 .....	145	110	255	18.58
1947 .....	133	128	261	19.69
1946 .....	140	150	290	22.96
1945 .....	104	103	207	15.8

#### DEATHS

Year	Male	Female	Total	Death Rate
1949 .....	89	93	182	12.2
1948 .....	84	62	146	10.6
1947 .....	86	76	162	12.22
1946 .....	82	81	163	12.6
1945 .....	90	83	173	13.8

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

(Deaths of Infants under one year).	Total	‡Mortality Rate
1949 .....	9	33.9
1948 .....	2	27.4
1947 .....	5	14
1946 .....	11	53.6
1945 .....	12	37.9
		57.9

	†Birth Rate	†Death Rate	‡Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales .....	16.7	11.7	32
126 Great Towns .....	18.7	12.5	37
148 Smaller Towns .....	18.0	11.6	30
London .....	18.5	12.2	29
Isle of Axholme Rural District ...	18.8	12.2	33.9

† Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

**CAUSES OF DEATH.**

Disease.	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	2	4	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	3	—	3
Influenza .....	2	1	3
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis .....	—	2	2
Acute Infective Encephalitis .....	—	1	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (m) and Uterus (f)	2	1	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	3	4	7
Cancer of all other sites .....	6	6	12
Diabetes .....	1	1	2
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions .....	10	13	23
Heart Diseases .....	23	28	51
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	6	11
Bronchitis .....	3	3	6
Pneumonia .....	5	5	10
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	4	—	4
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	1	—	1
Apendicitis .....	1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases .....	1	3	4
Nephritis .....	1	—	1
Premature Birth .....	1	2	3
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases ...	4	1	5
Suicide .....	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents .....	3	1	4
Other Violent Causes .....	3	—	3
All Other Causes .....	4	10	14
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>182</b>

There were no deaths from Puerperal Fever nor other Maternal causes.

## **SECTION B.**

### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.**

#### **A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.**

##### **Health Information.**

Enquiries relating to local health services may be made of the Medical Officer of Health, 10/12, Lord Street, Gainsborough. The County Medical Officer is Dr. W. S. H. Campbell, O.B.E., County Offices, Lincoln.

##### **Health Centres.**

Until these centres are available, doctors, dentists and pharmacists will continue to practise at their own premises.

##### **Maternity Service.**

The following are amongst the provisions made:—

Midwives.

Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics.

Maternity Home and Hospital.

Maternity Outfits.

Care and Accommodation of Unmarried Mothers.

Dental Treatment.

##### **Child Care.**

Infant Welfare Centres. Doctors and nurses attend here to advise parents on all matters relating to the health and welfare of children up to 5 years of age.

Dental Inspection.

Dental Treatment.

Welfare Foods.

Care of Premature Infants.

Day Nurseries.

School Clinics.

School Medical Inspection. Children attending maintained schools are examined as a routine three times during their school lives; on entry, in the last year of attendance at the Primary School and in their last year at School. Defects or conditions requiring attention are notified to the parents who are invited to be present at the examination.

Consultations and Specialist Treatment.

Speech Defects. Training and Treatment arranged for.

##### **Home Nursing.**

##### **Health Visitors.**

To advise on the care of children, nursing mothers, the prevention of the spread of infection and on health matters generally.

## **Sick Room Requisites, Appliances and Other Equipment.**

### **Home Helps.**

For maternity cases during the lying-in period and where help is required in the case of the sick or aged. A charge is made for this service based on the family income.

### **Vaccination and Immunisation.**

Parents may have their children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria free of charge.

### **Mental Health.**

Mental Illness. Treatment will be arranged in conjunction with the Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and after-care will be carried out by specially trained workers employed by the County Council.

Mental Defectives. Arrangements made for institutional care. The County Council are responsible for the care and supervision of mental defectives in their own homes.

### **Ambulance Service.**

A very highly efficient service now operates in the area for all varieties of requirements.

## **B. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**

### **General Medical Care.**

#### **The Family Doctor.**

**Special Maternity Services apart from the Local Health Authority Service (General Practitioner Obstetrician).**

#### **Medicines, Drugs and Appliances.**

#### **Dentistry.**

#### **Supplementary Eye Service.**

## **C. SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.**

### **Hospital and Specialist Services.**

All forms of treatment in general or special hospitals are available, both in-patient and out-patient treatment. This includes sanatorium treatment, maternity care, care of mental health and surgical operations. Consultants and specialists are available as far as resources permit.

## **SECTION C.**

### **WATER SUPPLY.**

Water is purchased in bulk from the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board on a long term agreement. Distribution is effected by means of two water towers, one situated at Haxey and the other at Crowle. In addition to supplying the domestic needs of the District the Council provides water to industries, a large number of farms for cattle and market gardening, government camps, etc. An extension scheme was also prepared for supplying water to outlying farms. Water is available and used in all the built-up portions of each parish, as well as to a large number of premises not in the built-up areas.

Number of dwellinghouses .....	4,615
Number of these supplied from mains .....	3,622

The supply in each parish has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity. Bacteriological and chemical examinations of samples are arranged for monthly by the suppliers. All results have been satisfactory. There is no Plumbo-Solvent action.

### **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

The new sewers at Crowle are completed and the disposal works are well advanced. It is anticipated that the whole will be completed and in operation during 1950. Detailed proposals for further schemes to serve the parishes of Althorpe, Keadby, Belton, Epworth, Haxey and Owston Ferry are being pressed forward and will be submitted to the Ministry of Health during 1950.

## **SECTION D.**

### **HOUSING.**

<b>TOTAL OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR ...</b>	<b>88</b>
(1) By the Local Authority .....	67
(2) By other Local Authorities .....	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons .....	21

### **1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.**

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	36
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	48
(2) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	22
(3) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	14

## **2 REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.**

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..... 3

## **3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.**

Proceedings under Public Health Acts ..... Nil

## **4 HOUSING ACT, 1936 — PART IV — OVERCROWDING.**

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... 38  
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..... 46  
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..... 280

Further progress has been made to meet the acute shortage, 142 houses having been completed, with a further 96 under construction; in addition, building sites are available for development. Temporary dwellings have also been provided by the conversion of disused War Department buildings to the extent of 78 family units. The housing need is obvious and no effort should be spared to provide the necessary housing accommodation.

- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..... 3  
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil

The following figures give the progress of the erection since 1945:—

Number of Council Houses erected prior to 1949 .....	304
Number completed since 1949 .....	209
Number under contract .....	75
Total .....	588

The number of new council houses for which tenders had been approved at 31st December, 1949 (284) and the number of such council houses completed at the same date (209) were the highest of all the rural districts in the county. This position has been maintained since April, 1948. Strenuous efforts are being made to overcome the shortage of housing accommodation in the district and to this end the Council have a number of sites in hand for the erection of further houses.

## **SECTION E.**

### **INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

Routine inspections by the Sanitary Inspector were made of shops, stalls, vehicles and food preparing places. Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops were also kept under supervision. With the coming into operation of the Food and Drugs (Milk and

Dairies) Act, 1944, duties in relation to the supervision of milk production were transferred from the Council to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on 1st October. Responsibilities for dairies, milkshops and retailing of milk remained unaltered. Slaughtering is carried out at the Regional Abattoir of the Ministry of Food, where routine inspection of all carcases takes place. With the increasing public alarm due to the growing number of cases of food poisoning throughout the country the Ministry have urged that stricter supervision should be exercised over all premises where food is prepared. Whilst every effort is made in this direction, I am pleased to report that no outbreaks of food poisoning in the area were brought to our notice.

## SECTION F.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

It will be seen from the ensuing tables that there was a most remarkably small number of notifications of Infectious Diseases (17, including Tuberculosis). This would have been very gratifying news if it had not been for the fact that, of these, one case of Smallpox and seven of Infantile Paralysis introduced a gloomy record.

The following diseases were notified during 1949:—

Measles .....	3
Scarlet Fever .....	2
Smallpox .....	1
Poliomyelitis .....	5
Polio-Encephalitis .....	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	2
—	
Total .....	17
—	

### SMALLPOX.

In April, a case of smallpox was discovered at Epworth and removed to Doncaster Smallpox Hospital. The infection originated in the Steamship "Mooltan" in which another case had occurred in a passenger arriving in London from Bombay. Unfortunately this disease was of the haemorrhagic type, which, as usual, proved rapidly fatal. All possible precautionary measures against spread of smallpox were taken. I am grateful to the County Medical Officer for his co-operation and provision of a Health Visitor, who devoted her whole time to daily supervising the twenty contacts in the district during the necessary period of surveillance. Vaccination was carried out of all contacts and personnel at risk. Mass vaccination was not considered justifiable and so was not resorted to. Therefore, much trouble, expense, and panic were avoided. No further case occurred, which reflects creditably on the standard of the Health Service Organisation.

### **INFANTILE PARALYSIS.**

Between 30th July and 28th September six cases were notified. 2 were at Haxey and 4 at Westwoodside. A seventh case was notified at Crowle on 10th November. It has been uncommon for more than one case to occur in the same household but one family had two children stricken within two days of each other. The ages of the patients in years were viz:— 1-11/12, 4, 6, 9, 13, 14 and 20. Deaths occurred in the oldest and the two youngest of these. Each case was of the paralytic type. Apart from the two children in the same family there was no evidence of one having been infected by the other. All were in satisfactory homes, mostly of the semi-detached type of council house with water laid on. One was a farm house. Each house was on the roadside and the district was sparsely populated. Many small drains and dykes were in this area, some of which were polluted. Contamination of railway tracks with excreta from trains has been suggested as a source of infection by flies. One case arose in a railway cottage adjoining the track. Another case had, a few days previously, been paddling in a stagnant pond. It was unfortunate that the mortality was so high.

### **DIPHTHERIA.**

We have now had three consecutive years of freedom from Diphtheria.

Particulars of immunisations against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox during the year.

### **IMMUNISATIONS.**

	Initials	Boosters
Under 5 years	Aged 5-14	
130	59	47

### **VACCINATIONS.**

Aged under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
13	26	14	29	82

### **RE-VACCINATIONS.**

—	—	5	16	21
---	---	---	----	----

---

The following tables show the number of cases of Infectious Diseases by reference to Parishes, Age Groups, and Month by Month.

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES.

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Smallpox	Polio- Myelitis	Polio- Encephalitis	Pulm. Tuberculosis	Non-Pulm. Tuberculosis
Beltfort .....	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Crowle .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Eppworth .....	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Haxey .....	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Keadby .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Westwoodside ...	—	1	—	2	2	—	—
Wroot .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .....	2	3	1	5	2	2	2

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Age	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Smallpox	Polio-Myelitis	Polio-Encephalitis
0—1	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	1	—
2—3	—	—	—	—	—
3—4	1	—	—	—	—
4—5	—	—	—	1	—
5—10	—	—	3	—	2
10—15	—	—	—	1	—
15—20	—	—	—	1	—
20—35	1	—	—	1	—
35 up	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .....	2	3	1	5	2

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles .....	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Smallpox .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Polio-Myelitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	5
Polio-Encephalitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Pulm. T.B. ....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Non-Pulm. T.B. ....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Total .....	1	2	—	3	—	1	2	4	3	—	1	—	17

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5 .....	—	—	1	—
5—10 .....	—	—	—	—
10—15 .....	—	1	—	—
15—25 .....	—	1	—	—
25—45 .....	—	—	1	—
45—65 .....	—	—	—	—
Over 65 .....	—	—	—	—
<hr/>				
Totals .....	—	2	2	— = 4
<hr/>				

### DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
	2	2	3	—
<hr/>				
Total .....			9	

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	32	22	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	48	18	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .....	27	27	Nil	Nil
Total .....	107	67	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Want of Cleanliness	.....
Found .....	1
Remedied .....	1
Referred by H.M. Inspector .....	Nil
No. of prosecutions .....	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT. OUTWORK.

Sections 110 and 111.	Wearing apparel (making, etc.)	All other items
No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) .....	2	Nil
No. of defaults, prosecutions, notices served (under all headings) .....	.....	Nil



